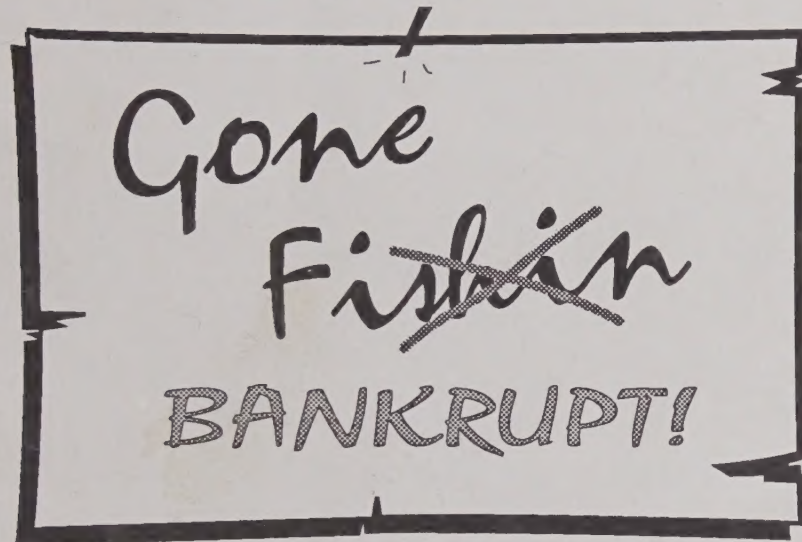




COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE UNION

SUMMER / FALL 1990

# Save the dolphins, save the sea lions, but what about us?



## Fishermen Under Fire

Just as the spotted owl is wreaking havoc with the Northwest timber industry, marine mammals and their protectors are threatening to make commercial fishermen an endangered species.

While environmentalists are screaming, "Save the Dolphins, Save the Sea Lions," commercial fishermen and their livelihoods are caught in the crossfire.

Petitions have already been filed to place Lower Columbia coho, Snake River sockeye, as well as spring, summer and fall chinook salmon runs (on the Snake) on the threatened species list.

And fishermen are essentially powerless to do anything about it.

Last spring, the Steller sea lion was the first to be temporarily placed on the threatened species list by the National Marine Fisheries Service, citing a continued dramatic decline in their numbers. This means a 240-day study is underway by the NMFS to determine if the numbers are low enough to warrant a permanent designation on the threatened list, or even a possible upgrade to the endangered species list.

*Story continues on page 4*

## No August season this year

Lower Columbia River Gillnetters didn't get their nets wet this August.

At its August 2 meeting in Vancouver, the Columbia River Compact decided that only area 2-S, a secondary fishery further up the river, would open to gillnet fishermen this year.

Underway at presstime, the season opened Sunday, August 12 for five nights, then began again Monday, August 19 for five more nights, ending Friday, August 24.

Area 2-S, expanded somewhat this year, begins at the I-205 bridge near Vancouver, and ends at Beacon Rock, near Bonneville Dam.

As before, a 9-inch minimum mesh restriction was in place.

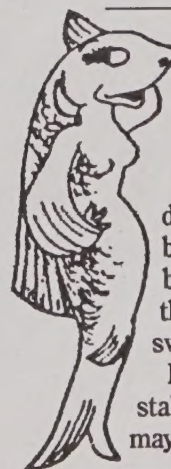
It was only the fourth time since 1970 that the true Lower Co-

lumbia has remained closed to gillnetters during the entire month of August. In 1982, gillnetters caught over 79,000 chinook salmon in a 12-hour period on the lower river the last two days of the month. It was to be the most successful (and the shortest) season since 1975.

Most lower river fishermen do not participate in the 2-S fishery, although reports say more boats are taking part this year. Only about 100 boats participated in the fishery last year, which netted just under 30,000 chinook in a seven-night season.

The Youngs Bay fishery embarked Sunday, August 19, and will commence once again on Halloween night.

For a more detailed look at the "State of the Run," see page 13.



## Sally the Salmon Says...

"They're calling me endangered *now* when they built all those dams years back without fish ladders, thinking maybe I could swim around them.

Now they want to start installing ladders today, when it may be too late."





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## FOREWORD



The Columbia River Gillnetter is the pilot of the Lower Columbia River Fishing Industry, keeping commercial fishermen and the public abreast of the true facts and happenings. The advertisements which appear make it possible to publish this paper, and we hope you will, in return, patronize and thank the people who contribute to our cause. Articles, photographs and letters are welcome for submission.

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# ENDANGERED SPECIES: Columbia River Gillnetters could be next

"Gillnetting may not be the solution for protecting (fish) runs,  
... and that may mean a phase-out of gillnetting on the Columbia River." —Barbara Roberts

Environmentalists are having a field day. Commercial fishermen everywhere are under the watchful eyes of a wide assortment of interests, from Greenpeace to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Fishermen in Alaska and here on the Columbia must keep a detailed, daily log of any interactions with marine mammals while fishing, and must present it at the end of the year or their fishing license isn't renewed.

They're serious about their sea lions.

Even Barbara Roberts, the Democratic candidate for Oregon governor, has set her sights on fishermen, saying Lower Columbia Gillnetters need to be "phased out."

Make no mistake about it, they're pretty sharp, these environment folks, and plenty influential. Just look at what's happened with the spotted owl. If anything, they are on a roll.

As a gillnetter on the Lower Columbia for more than sixty years, I have seen many a fish swim up the river, and I've probably caught my share. I was studying fisheries at Oregon State College (Now Oregon State University) when Bonneville and Grand Coulee Dams were being built.

I sat and watched between 1935 and 1940 as both dams were built — without fish ladders. I guess maybe they thought the fish could make it through the massive turbines to their spawning grounds.

They were wrong.

When Grand Coulee Dam was completed, more than half of the total spawning area for sockeye and Royal Chinook salmon was taken away. Yet many thousands of sockeye still return to their smaller spawning grounds — more than 200,000 did so in 1985. This wild run has endured the trials of time and man, without the help of fish ladders and without a sockeye hatchery on the Columbia River system.

Hundreds of thousands more would make it if ladders were in place. Only now are funds becoming available for the construction of screens and other fish-diverting devices on the Columbia's dams, when they should have been there years ago.

The spring run of chinook on the mighty Columbia has been improving over the years, even though gillnetters haven't been able to fish it for sixteen years. From a total of 51,500 in 1979 to more than 125,000 in 1986 — the run is just slightly less than it was twenty years ago.

The coho ("silver") run on the Columbia is in good shape, too, with more fish returning in 1986 than any year on record — more than 1.5 million. 1987 saw a healthy return of just over 700,000, while the winter run of salmon on the Willamette River has doubled in the past ten years, from 43,500 in 1980 to 133,000 in 1990.

Does that *really* sound endangered to you?

Today Portland businessmen are casting (and catching) during their lunch breaks, while tourists are hooking twenty-pound salmon out of their hotel windows on the shore at Jantzen Beach.

Just try *that* with a spotted owl.

So let's face it, these are certainly *not* threatened or endangered numbers we're looking at here. It's clear that many wild stocks are far from depleted, but, concurrently, there is also a very strong need for smart planning and management. Fast.

The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union has played a major role in today's success on the Willamette River system. In 1935, the Union initiated the very first legal action against more than one-hundred polluters on the Willamette and the Columbia. With the caring, intelligent assistance of Wendell Wyatt and Julia Butler Hansen, Congress appropriated over \$3.5 million to stop these pollutants and clean up these rivers, as well as to install ladders at Oregon City Falls.

It's made a difference.

CRFPU was also responsible for the fish ladders installed at Bonneville Dam, while the Corps of Engineers originally built the dam without them, touting they didn't want to play "nurse-maid" to a bunch of fish.

Fortunately, they were eventually convinced that ladders were a viable alternative to a bunch of *dead* fish.

It's made a difference, too.

While Oregon and Washington are enjoying healthy fish returns, the state of Idaho is having some serious fish problems. Some thirty years ago, when it was asked to join a tri-state compact with Oregon and Washington to plan for future fish runs, it looked the other way.

Now its runs, like the one on the Salmon River, are seriously threatened. Dams like the Black Canyon, Brownlee and Owyhee have all remained unladdered since the 1940's, and no plans are in the works to build any.

Oh, well, at least they have their electrical power.

On Bristol Bay this spring, permitholders soundly rejected a proposed plan for fish enhancement, saying that natural spawning in a river system is the only way to go. And they are right. The less fiddling, the better.

CRFPU has been fighting for the quality of our waterways for years, and recently stood strongly against the proposed Port Westward pulp mill when many other interest groups thought it was a good idea.

But it's *not* a good idea to pour a chemical as toxic as dioxin into our water system, and most Oregonians saw that.

Gillnetters saw it, too. We care about the environment and we care about preserving the wild runs.

Let the environmentalists scream about *that* awhile.

—Don Riswick



## From the Secretary

The past 104 years, the goal of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union has been, and will continue to be, to protect the interests of the Columbia River Gillnetter.

There have been many fishermen who have held officer positions through the years, and much time was taken away from their regular jobs to work on Union business.

We all owe a special appreciation to these fishermen who took the extra time to contribute to their livelihoods.

Many fishermen take the easy way out, and pay their dues and let the officers make the decisions. That's okay in most cases, but there are times when member input is important. At Union meetings, and especially at Compact meetings, where it could mean the difference between getting a fair season or none at all.

Naturally, like any other organization, there's been a few mistakes made, but I'm sure the good have outweighed the bad. The important thing is that, through the combined efforts of CRFPU and Salmon for All, we're still fishing.

And there's been many times in the past when things looked pretty bleak. We have had to give up certain seasons because of depressed stocks. Net mesh sizes have been regulated. Steelhead was declared a game fish, to name just a few.

We didn't give these up without a fight, but we'd rather be fishing with the changes than not at all.

Our fishery, I believe, is a clean one. We harvest surplus fish only when enough escapement has passed through the fishing area. As time goes on, it seems that more and more people have a clouded view of *gillnetting*, period. They have visions of us killing thousands of dolphins, seals, sea birds, sea turtles and more in our nets.

Their argument sounds good, but we will not be compared or condemned with the unregulated, foreign high-seas gillnetters who *do* do that kind of damage.

—Jack Marincovich

## Fishing Under Fire *continued*

Alaska's commercial fishermen have been the hardest hit by the marine mammal — so far.

On Kodiak Island, the NMFS has strengthened its efforts to protect the Steller sea lion, whose Alaskan numbers have declined from 68,000 in 1985 to 25,000 in 1989, by placing significantly restrictive regulations on fishing area boundaries which take away prime fishing grounds, fishermen say.

Perhaps the most harshly affected areas are near the Marmot and Chirikov Islands, both just south of Kodiak. These fishing grounds encroached upon one of the largest Steller sea lion rookeries in the world, thus a **3-mile buffer zone** closed to commercial fishing has been put in place along the coastline.

The new boundary forces fishermen into a much smaller area, already congested. And if the study shows that the population is continuing to decline, the boundary could be extended even further.

The temporary emergency ruling also dramatically limits the number of sea lions which can be incidentally taken by commercial fishermen. Before, 1,350 sea lions could be taken by fishermen under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Under the new rule, just 675 can be caught west of 141 longitude.

In addition, the regulation specifically says that no one shall discharge any

firearm at or near sea lions, no matter how much they are interfering with fishermen's gear and catch. Only when human life is in jeopardy can the mammals be dealt with.

In a wild and hectic public hearing in Kodiak this spring, Guy Thornbergh of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission warned the local audience not to underestimate the power and support of environmental groups. He says many of them "have the image of Alaskans getting a big kick out of shooting sea lions," and added that fishermen need to dispel this perception — fast.

"All segments of the Alaska fishing industry are affected by the sea lions' critical status. We're talking about a severe potential... that has the same impact as the protection of the spotted owl," Thornbergh said.

And once a species is listed as endangered, which is the next step beyond threatened, it stays there. The population of the California sea lion, longtime foe of the fisherman, is growing at an alarming rate, yet it is still protected under the marine mammal act.

If the Steller sea lion is listed endangered, any activity likely to interact with the species would be stopped, including commercial fisheries in Alaska, British Columbia and here on the West Coast.

*Related story on page 19*

*Many CRFPU members serve on various agencies and advisory boards. Members are encouraged to contact individuals regarding specific issues, or call the Union office.*

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# USA/Soviet pact takes aim at driftnetters

WASHINGTON, DC — The United States and the Soviet Union have penned an agreement which would aim at putting an end to Asian salmon fishermen on the high seas.

The agreement is the first between the USA and the Soviet Union concerning international management of the fish-rich North Pacific.

Reflecting what may very well be the beginning of a new era of fisheries management on the North Pacific Ocean, the pact is directed at Asian nations Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

American fishermen know that millions of immature salmon are caught in these nets, which can stretch up to 35 miles, and this vastly reduces the number of salmon which return to fresh-water streams to spawn.

The sensible thing to do is to fish for the salmon as they return to their spawning grounds, such as happens each year on Bristol Bay, Alaska. This way the catches can be controlled, and sufficient escapement passes through to ensure sustaining of the species, while immature fish stay at sea to grow into adults.

Henry Mitchell, a member of the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association in Alaska and also an acting observer to the negotiations, says U.S. salmon runs would rise dramatically if the high seas fishing is stopped.

"If they get rid of the drift-net fishery, you'll see salmon runs in Alaska double

or triple in five or six years," Mitchell said.


Mitchell added these increases could mean significantly increased revenue for all concerned — an additional \$15 million in additional domestic salmon catches in Alaska's Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers alone.

Salmon runs in Oregon and Washington would benefit too, as the draft agreement includes all anadromous fish, such as the steelhead trout, which has been steadily declining.

Environmental groups claim that the driftnets catch other types of marine life

as well, such as dolphins, porpoises, sea birds, seals and sea lions.

But, American drift-net fishermen, who are also under fire from environmentalists, say the Asian's impact on salmon is far greater than it is on other marine life.

"The nets just don't catch a whole lot of sea birds, when they float six inches below the surface," says one American fisherman. 

*Related story on page 35*

## CRFPU NEEDS YOU!

The Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union depends upon membership dues to keep us afloat and abreast of the current issues facing Lower Columbia Gillnetters. Many fishermen are "slipping by" without contributing — when we need a union that represents *fishermen!* It *does* makes a difference. Attend our meetings — we can't represent you if we don't know what you're thinking. Many fishermen have turned to more lucrative jobs to supplement their incomes. We *encourage* part-time fishermen to join CRFPU! We need your support! Yearly dues are \$150, and may be paid in installments. Use handy clip-out on page 36!

Thank You.

## Japanese caught in the act

Just a few weeks after proclaiming that they would not take part in high-seas driftnetting any longer, Japanese fishermen were caught red-handed this summer by Soviet and American officials on the high seas.

They were after wild Pacific salmon.

Disguised as a fleet of ten North Korean fishing vessels, the Japanese fishermen were banking on remaining "incognito," but their thin disguise didn't fool the Soviet and U.S. Coast Guard vessels patrolling the area.

The Japanese had just signed an agreement with the United Nations, saying it would stop driftnet fishing a year before the date set by the U.N.

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# BRIEFLY

## *Fishermen get injunction to stop logging*

**SALMON BAY, ALASKA** — A group of Southeast Alaska fishermen have filed a successful injunction to halt clear-cut logging operations operating near fish spawning streams on Prince of Wales Island, in the Tongass National Forest.

The Salmon Bay Protective Association, which includes environmentalists and subsistence groups on its membership list as well as fishermen, convinced U.S. District Court Judge James von der Heydt to sign the order March 1.

The injunction prohibits all logging and road construction within 100 feet of spawning streams on the fish-rich island, and will remain in effect indefinitely.

The SBPA is pushing for a permanent ban on clear-cut logging (near spawning streams) on Salmon Bay and its many tributaries, citing significant damage to fish runs.

## *Toxic spill kills 10,000 salmon*

**SEATTLE** — More than 10,000 yearling coho salmon were killed by an unknown toxic discharge near the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery this spring, and environmental officials say they may never know where the discharge came from.

Many coho were found on the banks of the creek with their gills open, apparently trying to rid themselves of the deadly contaminant, according to hatchery manager Rod Henderson.

A light oily sheen was found on the surface of the water, but may not be the cause, officials say.

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# New marine mammal rules will be just as tough

When the current Marine Mammal Protection Act expires in the fall of 1993, the United States Marine Mammal Commission is recommending more of the same — a goal of a near-zero mortality and serious injury rate from commercial fishermen.

The proposal, which will be submitted to Congress in early 1992, reaffirms and expands upon the act's original goal of protecting seals, sea lions, dolphins, whales and the like from diminishing in numbers.

It also reinstates the MMPA's small take provisions for fishermen when ma-

rine mammals in the area are within acceptable sustainable range, and the incidental take won't further affect the local situation.

The commission is also recommending that the incidental taking of endangered, threatened or depleted marine mammals be allowed only when specific conditions are met, such as after a recovery plan has been implemented; when there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the incidental catch would not further harm the stocks; after programs ensuring the allowed take will not be exceeded are in place, and that "there are no unforeseen

effects on the size or productivity of the affected species or population."

The recommendations also call for the National Marine Fisheries Service to have unquestioned authority to place official observers on board commercial fishing vessels at its request.

A new recommendation would require fishery management councils to "assess and take into account the food requirements of marine mammals when defining overfishing and calculating the optimal yield of fishery resources."

Fishermen will be allowed to comment as the process continues. ⚓

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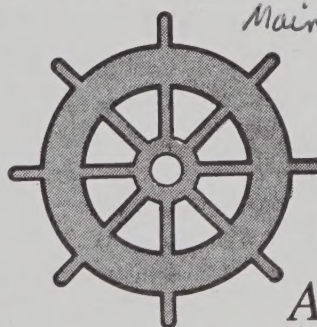
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# Research helping to keep marine mammals out of fishing gear

by Douglas Schneider, Alaska Sea Grant College Program, University of Alaska at Fairbanks

At a time when Alaska's dwindling population of Steller sea lions threatens to close commercial fishing seasons, another marine mammal, the sea otter, is so plentiful in some areas that researchers seek ways fishermen can avoid catching them in their nets.

Sea otters, those furry creatures that captured the hearts of people worldwide following the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, are on the increase in some parts of the state. On the broad sand and mud flats of the Copper River Delta in Prince William Sound near Cordova, for example, frolic an estimated 6,000 sea otters. There are so many that fishermen have for years been accidentally catching them in their nets.

Just as curiosity killed the cat, sea otters are caught most often by fishermen after getting too close to nets containing salmon. Other marine mammals also are getting caught, especially Steller sea lions. Sea lions enjoy a good salmon meal and find nets filled with salmon easy pickings. Their numbers have declined substantially in recent years. There are so few, about 25,000 Steller sea lions left, that managers have now listed them as a threatened species.

Federal laws once allowed that a limited number of marine mammals could be killed if accidentally caught by fishermen. But recent amendments to the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibit killing marine mammals except to protect human life. In addition, commercial fishing seasons can be closed in areas where fishing endangers marine mammals.

The law protects sea otters, sea lions, northern fur seals, elephant seals, harbor seals, walrus, Dall's porpoise and whales.

That leaves fishermen in a dilemma. If they don't fish, they can't earn a living. If they do fish, they risk catching marine mammals.

To help avoid fishing closures and protect marine mammals, Alaska Sea Grant College Program marine mammal

researcher Kate Wynne spent the past two fishing seasons on the Copper River Delta watching fishermen handle encounters with marine mammals. The study is part of a joint effort with the Cordova District Fisherman United to identify methods fishermen use to avoid catching marine mammals in their nets. The study also helps reveal the effects of commercial fishing on marine mammals in the area.

During the two-year study that began in 1988, 154 marine mammals — mostly harbor seals — were seen either in fishermen's nets or attempting to get at the salmon caught in the nets, according to the study's draft report.

Wynne observed several techniques used to repel marine mammals from fishing nets:

Shooting toward the intruder was used most often. About 18 percent of the fishermen shot toward marine mammals. This practice is illegal and not as effective as running the gear.

Running the gear, or using the boat to chase away the offending marine mammal, was used by 12 percent of the fishermen.

Failing these efforts, Wynne found fishermen sometimes tossed harmless but noisy explosives, called seal bombs, at the intruder. As a last resort, several fishermen chose to remove their nets from the water and move to an area free of marine mammals.

Roughly half of the fishermen attempted to dissuade marine mammals from their nets. Of these, 73 percent felt the techniques were successful. Wynne said such non-lethal techniques can work in other areas of Alaska where marine mammal encounters are common.

Wynne also is interested in knowing the causes of death among marine mammals found beached on the delta. During aerial surveys conducted before the fishing season

*Continued on next page*

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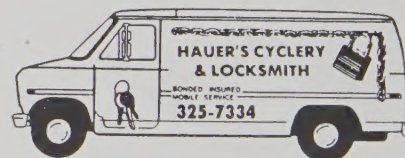
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*Stan Hauer, R.L.*



opened Wynne found no marine mammals washed ashore. However, during the fishing season the surveys revealed 138 carcasses on the beach.

Steller sea lions accounted for 47 percent of the total, followed by sea otters and harbor seals. Though autopsies were difficult because of the decomposed condition of the carcasses, Wynne believes many of them were shot or clubbed.

Three percent of the salmon examined carried scars, bite marks and other damage attributable to marine mammals.

Marine mammals in 1988 caused an estimated \$248,000 in losses to commercial fishermen, due to damaged and unmarketable salmon, less than one percent of the catch value that year.

Estimates to repair nets and other gear damaged by marine mammals range from \$52,000 to \$155,000.

Researchers found that encounters with harbor seals were most frequent in the delta channels and in the eastern portion of the delta. Encounters with sea lions were most frequent in the ocean surf and nearshore areas adjacent to the delta.

Deterrents were more effective on seals than on sea lions, and gunshots were twice as effective a deterrent on seals than sea lions. Seal bombs were also effective in driving seals away.

Research findings useful to fishermen are published in a guide to help fishermen avoid contact with marine mammals. The guide is available from the Alaska Sea Grant College Program at the University of Alaska, 138 Irving II, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99775-5040, or call 907/474-7086 for more information.

## SEA OTTERS FORCE CALIFORNIA GILLNET CLOSURE

MORRO BAY, CA — In response to the wildly-publicized death of four sea otters which became trapped in a halibut net near Ragged Point, the California Dept. of Fish and Game has curtailed commercial gillnetting in central California waters.

The area in question, from Pico Creek (near San Simeon) north to Cape San Martin — a lengthy 28-mile stretch which includes Ragged Point — is closed to gillnetting inside of 30 fathoms. The area was already off limits to gillnetters inside 20 fathoms, but this most recent closure did not go over well with local fishermen.

"We're happy to stay out of hot spots such as Ragged Point, but blanket closures don't make sense," said John Greenville, president of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization. "You'll always find a maverick fisherman who breaks the law, but overall we've tried to cooperate by offering alternatives such as daylight sets and well-defined area closures," he added.

Greenville says the 10-fathom extension will hurt many Morro Bay and Monterey fishermen who depend upon winter halibut gillnetting.

Meanwhile, California's recreational anglers are playing it tough. An initiative which would amend the state constitution and ban gillnetting in Southern California waters will appear before voters this fall.

Dubbed the "Marine Resources Protection Initiative," the measure would effectively eliminate a substantial part of the income of many fishermen. It comes after an unsuccessful attempt by California sportsmen earlier this year to ban gillnetting here. That bill, similar to the marine resources initiative, never got out of committee.

So the recreational interests changed tactics and gathered the necessary 600,000 signatures to qualify their initiative for the November ballot. Paying \$1 per signature to the gatherers, the goal was reached this summer.

And the tactics used to obtain these signatures weren't exactly up-front and honest, say commercial fishermen. Touting signs of "Save our Dolphins, Save our Whales," in shopping malls across the state, the anti-gillnet workers had people signing, even though it's the gillnets they're really after.

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## Bristol Bay run exceeds expectations — and then some

Nearly 45 million red salmon have returned to their natural spawning grounds on Alaska's famous Bristol Bay this year, almost 20 million more than were originally expected. The run bettered the mark set last year as the second best in history — only in 1983 did more fish make their way back through the cold waters of the Bering Sea.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at King Salmon, 44,905,155 salmon had reached the five districts of Bristol Bay by the end of July, with the Naknek/Kvichak district again topping the list with a catch of almost 17 million. The total run in this district was just under 26 million, more than half the run of the entire bay. Fishermen here received little rest this year, as escapement was high and waters remained open much of the season.

Egegik, traditionally one of the top-producing districts, was reduced in size this year and also saw comparatively little fishing time due to poor escapement, but still managed to net nearly 10 million salmon, more than double what was predicted.

Ugashik fishermen caught about 2 million fish, somewhat less than expected, while Nushagak fishermen netted 3.1 million salmon, double the original prediction. Togiak fishermen caught 170,000 reds this year, about what was expected.

Price was once again not the high point of the season, with most fishermen getting just one dollar per pound for their prized red salmon, the same as the initial payoff last year, which became \$1.25-1.35 six months later. Most fishermen are expecting some sort of bonus again this year, but there's no word yet.

Fishermen in Cook Inlet, who vie for the same red, reportedly received \$1.60-1.70 for their catches this year.

## Harvest grows as run lingers on

They say fair weather is a fisherman's friend, and such has been the case on Bristol Bay this year.

Unseasonably warm and calm weather essentially throughout the season has made the some 45,000 scaly returnees in no hurry to reach their final spawning grounds — which has made for some good fishing right up to quitting time.

"We're seeing deliveries of five- and six-thousand pounds and more on the 15th and 16th of July, which is not typical," says a spokesperson from the ADF&G at King Salmon.

Alaska's red salmon do enjoy frolicking in the sunshine, but tend to move quickly when the waters get rough and the currents turn swift.

And this can all happen in a hurry.

The 1989 season was quite a different story, as several wild Alaskan summer storms tended to push the fish into the rivers. By the 14th or 15th, multi-ton deliveries were very few and far between.

## Alaskans say 'No' to fish farms

Alaskans have decided that they want nothing to do with fin fish farming in their waters, and voted in May to ban it statewide.

"If we didn't have so much to lose, everybody's attitude would be very different. But we do have the largest (wild) salmon runs in the world," says Ken Castner, executive director of United Fishermen of Alaska, a group of commercial fishermen which worked strongly for the measure.

The great northern state provides the USA with nearly half of its supply of wild Pacific salmon, and intro-

ducing pen-raised fish into the wild stocks was the last thing Alaskans wanted to do.

Fish farms would be a great threat to preserving the natural spawning rituals of the wild stocks, which return millions of salmon (and other species) per year. As is a problem at other farms, fish could develop diseases and introduce inferior genetic traits into the wild stocks.

The new law states simply that, "A person may not grow or cultivate fin-fish in captivity or under positive control for commercial purposes."

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# It's a jungle out there

## Naknek's East Marker is not for the meek or tame of heart

It's been called "The Wall," and aptly so.

The east boundary marker of the Naknek/Kvichak District on Alaska's famous Bristol Bay is no place for the meek or tame of heart.

Especially not at the peak of the red season in June and July.

That's when hundreds of wild gillnetters, sniffing money in the wind, "fight the line" for a chance to net a few Alaska Red Salmon as they swim into legal waters.

And making your way through the dodging gillnetters and quickly-moving nets is no easy feat, especially when the nets are only 10 to 15 feet apart.

Look out if you happen to see a "jumper" or two.

Nervous skippers will steal quick glances at their lorans, knowing that 32430 is the magic number. Any

higher could risk a violation from the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, no small thing in a borough that confiscates boats and permits, and hands out fines worth thousands of dollars without a flinch.

Today, the bay is a much different fishery than it was ten years ago. Human greed has reared its ugly head and has begun to make a mark, as big money is needed to pay big mortgages on boats and permits these days.

And that can be a frightening situation for many fishermen when the payment is due and there's no fish on the books.

It's even more scary when you're sitting on the beach and the reds are swimming up the river. In 1983 more than 1.6 million rushed up the Kvichak in just one tide.

Bristol Bay is no longer

the gentleman's fishery it once was. Before, if you were there first, you got the set while others waited. But no more.

Boats now set on the drift hours before the tide. This "new breed" of fishermen has little respect, and has turned the bay upside down.

Although a bit less than in recent years, cutting in on a piece of the red salmon pie in Bristol Bay will still cost more than a quarter of a million dollars, or much more for a package with a decent boat.

The average boat on the bay in the past five years has netted about \$90,000 worth of salmon, but the drastic price drop the last two seasons has lowered the average significantly.

It also has lowered the price of permits — in late 1988 and early 1989, some

permits alone were approaching the \$300,000 mark.

After this year's banner year on the bay, we may see that mark again.

Each Bristol Bay gillnetter must register in the district in which it fishes, and can only be registered in one district at a time. Transferring to another of the five districts is a little like Russian Roulette, as you must wait 48 hours before beginning to fish.

And 48 hours can seem like light years in Alaska when the reds are running and you're on the beach.

Only when an escape-ment goal for a district is reached does the season open.

It can be a long wait.

Yes, Bristol Bay is different today. But as one oldtimer puts it, "The Bay's always been tough, and tough guys win."

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## President's Desk

It's that time of year again, fishermen are busy preparing for what little fishing time we might get this fall.

Unfortunately, the predictions are not the best, but fishermen have long known how to take the good years along with the bad. It isn't anything new, as fish have gone through changing cycles over the years. Some years are better than others.

But, as was the case this year on Bristol Bay, you cannot underestimate fish. Millions more Red Salmon came back to the bay this year than was expected, and it could happen here, too.

On the Washington side of the river, things are moving along quite slowly up in Olympia. On a scale of courtesy and efficiency, the Washington Department of fisheries here does not rank high.

Especially when you're trying to change a license over, or change operators — it's a long, drawn-out process that requires at least one, sometimes two or three, trips to Olympia to perform all the red tape. There's miles of it, and this can be quite frustrating when fishing is on.

With such a great possibility for loss of fishing time, it would make more sense to handle these kinds of changes in the cities where auto licenses are done.

It would certainly be a great service to fishermen. So they'll never go for it.

—Bruce Crookshanks

## Them Sea Lions Ain't So Friendly

PETERSBURG, ALASKA — Philip Pullins received a surprise as he was thawing bait herring over the side of his fish boat the *Mar-Lyn* this spring.

When an estimated 1200-pound sea lion lunged from the cold water to try and snatch the bait as it hung from a line, Pullins definitely *did* get a surprise — and a torn \$200 raincoat.

"I heard this whoosh and felt a jerk on my back, then I heard a big splash," the Southeast Alaska fisherman told the local newspaper.

"I called to my wife and asked her if there was a hole in my raincoat. Sure

enough there was. But I didn't feel any pain so I knew he hadn't gotten any of me," Pullins said.

Jim Stromdahl, harbormaster at Petersburg, said local sea lions hadn't ever attacked a person before, they usually just prefer a short snooze on the dock or a tempting fish or two lying around. But "they are very territorial," he added.

Stromdahl also said the number of sea lions has increased the past two years.

Sea lions can often weigh over 1,000 pounds — more than a formidable challenge for a fisherman.

—Related story on page 19



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## State of the Run

The Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife has released its Columbia River "pre-season forecast" for the 1990 harvest year.

Although the run of Upriver Brights (URB) is expected to be slightly lower than any the past six years, the forecast is larger than any return between 1974 and 1983.

A total of 126,900 adult salmon will return to the Columbia, with a forecasted goal of 45,000 fish for escapement over McNary Dam. The estimated harvestable surplus at the mouth of the Columbia will be about 70,600 adult chinook salmon, according to the ODF&W.

Idaho's Snake River component, which is having serious depletion problems, will contribute only 5 percent or less to the total run in 1990. Dams in this state have greatly contributed to the depressed, and in some cases, extinct runs of fish.

The forecasted Bonneville Dam Pool Hatchery (BPH) adult run is approximately 27,200 fish, allowing for a harvestable surplus at the river mouth of 12,200 — about the same as last year's showing, but well below the pre-1983 average BPH run of more than 110,000.

Tule chinook trapping at Bonneville Dam will once again be used to supplement escapement at the Spring Creek Hatchery.

The Lower River Hatchery (LRH) forecast of just over 69,000 fish will be a record low return. Supplemental broodstock collection activities will again be necessary to reach the aggregate 1990 goal of 35,000 salmon, set by the states of Oregon and Washington.

The forecast for the 1990 run of Lower Columbia River wild stocks is 24,700 adult chinook — a bit down from the banner runs the past two or three years — but not significantly less than the recent ten-year average of 26,300.

This return figure does yield some harvestable surplus, but an amount is not known at this time.

## Let's talk about Snag Pulling

Many Columbia River fishermen are enjoying fishing in waters free of snags. The waters are clear because a few fishermen, usually the same, have taken the time to remove the snags to reduce gear damage.

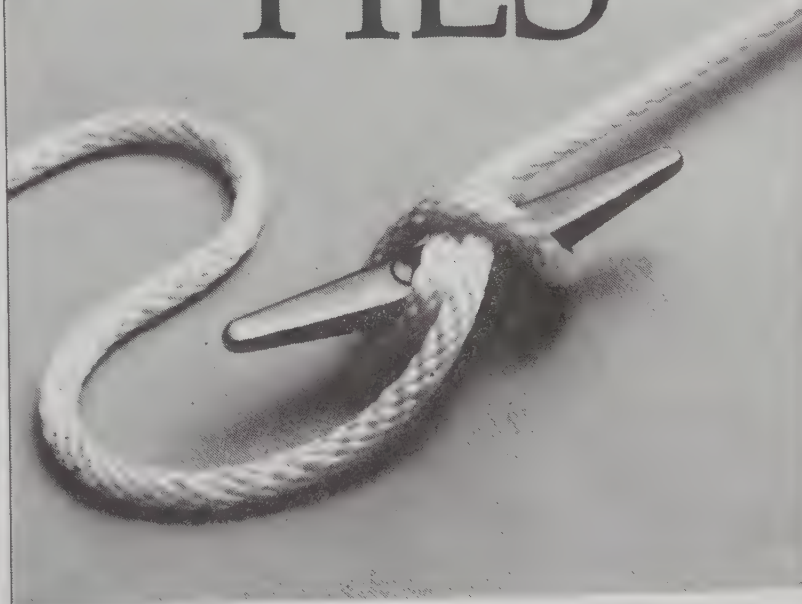
We hire divers, make new snag nets, and apply to the state for snag permits. We also have set up a Lower River Snag fund at the Astoria First Interstate Bank, under the signatures of Phil Johnson and Don Riswick. We ask fishermen from Tongue Point to the bar to pay \$50 per year in dues, tax deductible.

**It is unfair for a few fishermen to shoulder the responsibility of keeping the lower river clear of snags, and our program cannot continue without your help.** Many fishermen have never been out snagging, so here's a chance to contribute.

**On page 30 is a special clipout to send in your dues. Don't put it off any longer — join the "snag club" today.**

**ATTENTION YOUNGS RIVER FISHERMEN:** A snag fund has also been started for your fishery. Fish buyers have receipt books to take the \$20 yearly dues.

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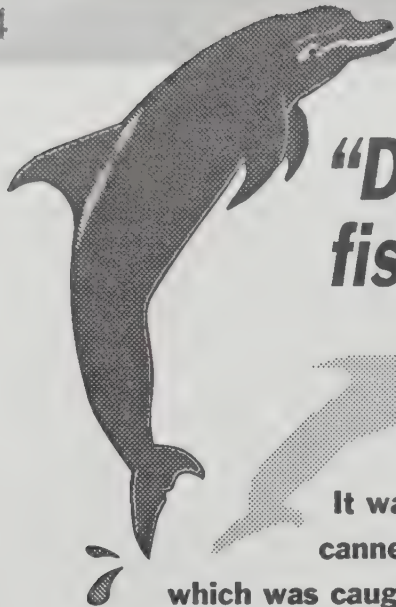
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## **"Dolphin-safe tuna" helps foreign fishermen more than dolphins**

**April 12, 1990 will long be remembered by tuna fishermen as a day that changed the face of the American tuna industry.**

**It was a day when H.J. Heinz, the parent company of the largest tuna canner in the world, declared that it would no longer purchase tuna which was caught in a purse seine that sets on dolphins.**

And it was intense pressure from our country's environmental groups which led to this monumental decision by Starkist Seafoods, which was facing an effective product boycott from these groups.

Seemingly within minutes of the Starkist decision, Chicken of the Sea and Bumble Bee, the number two and three tuna sellers owned by Van Camp and Castle & Cooke respectively, also followed suit with the "dolphin-safe" attitude. But who really benefits from the decision? It definitely makes the environmentalists happy. But does it help the everyday American consumer? Probably not. Tuna buyers will have to pay more for their tuna, and may see a shortage in some markets. But they most likely won't mind paying a few cents more for it — after all, it saves dolphins, doesn't it? Well, American consumers may be in for a big surprise when they learn what's really happening out there in the warm waters of the eastern Pacific.

Will the American tuna canners benefit? Well, they might look better in the eyes of the environmentalists, but they'll have to look harder for their tuna now. They'll have to look to either the Atlantic or the Indian Oceans, or the Western Pacific. Astonishingly, they are permitted by law to purchase tuna from foreign countries which have *double* the dolphin kill rate of American fishermen.

But what about the dolphin? I mean, the whole thing is designed to protect him, right? Well, he probably won't be having it so good once the foreign fishermen get wind of this new policy — they don't have to follow United States practices and will surely be after the tuna like a house afire. And they certainly don't care a whole lot about what happens to the dolphins.

According to August Felando, president of the American Tunaboat Association, there are well over 100 foreign vessels operating in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, the area where the largest amount of dolphin interaction occurs. Only one-third of these seiners are being observed, which means that the other 70 or so foreign boats will carry on as they please, and this is definitely not good news for dolphins.

Yet environmental groups like Greenpeace and Earth Island are elated. Dave Phillips, executive director of Earth Island Institute in San Francisco says, "This is the most significant step in the protection of marine mammals since the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act."

Indeed.

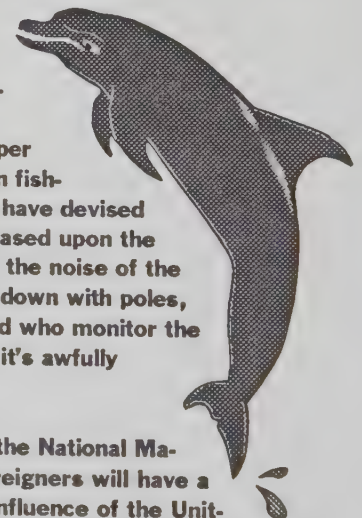
Perhaps Mr. Phillips should take a closer look at dolphin mortality rates among American tuna fishermen, and then compare them to foreign fishermen kill rates. The answers may surprise him.

Dolphin mortality rates among American tuna seiners have dropped to an average of 3.7 per set, or 12,640, in 1988, down from a staggering 500,000 in 1970. At the same time, foreign fishermen killed more than 80,000 dolphins that year. Why the difference? American fishermen have devised the "Backdown" method of releasing the animals before they are harmed. The procedure is based upon the fact that dolphins tend to congregate near the top of the seine at the furthest point away from the noise of the boat's engines, while the tuna stay further under. The fishermen maneuver the top of the net down with poles, so the dolphins can escape while the tuna remains. Many others have full-time divers on board who monitor the seine, and release dolphins when they become entangled. It's not a 100-percent method, but it's awfully close. Felando says it's 99 percent, which is a remarkable achievement.

But the environmentalists don't seem to care.

And there's more. Rod McGinnis, chief of the Conservation and Management Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service, agrees that dolphins will not fare well with this decision, while the foreigners will have a field day. "It's very conceivable that dolphin mortality will increase," he says. "Without the influence of the United States, those nations may go off and do what they want."

What's to happen to the tuna industry? Some say many American fishermen will simply document their vessels under a foreign flag, and ignore the U.S. regulations. Others claim they'll just give up and move to another fishery. Either way, things are not looking up for our ocean-going friend. It will take a lot more than a "dolphin-safe" label to help him, and it may already be too late. ↓





## FISHERMEN'S EFFORTS SAVING DOLPHINS

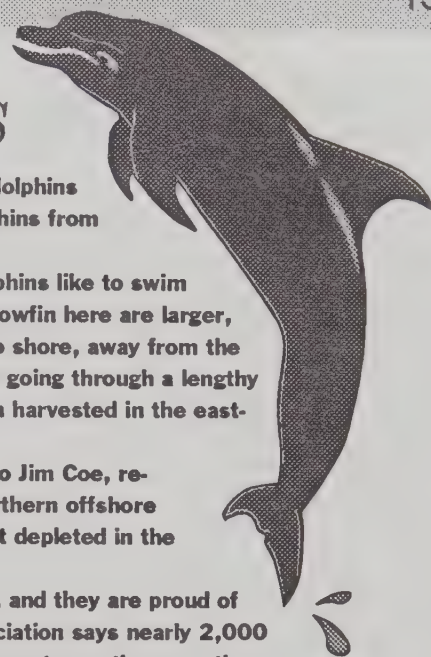
While the essentially unmonitored foreign tuna fishermen continue to kill thousands of dolphins on the high seas, American fishermen have been adapting new technologies to protect dolphins from becoming entangled in tuna seines — and are having much success in the process.

But why do dolphins follow tuna? In the eastern tropical Pacific, yellowfin tuna and dolphins like to swim together, with the dolphin swimming near the surface, while the tuna frolic below. The yellowfin here are larger, more mature tuna, and more desirable to the fisherman. Younger tuna tend to stay closer to shore, away from the dolphin school. These tuna often swim well within 200 miles from shore, and often require going through a lengthy permission process before being allowed to fish. As a result, three-quarters of all yellowfin harvested in the eastern Pacific is caught outside of this 200-mile limit.

Schools of dolphins can number anywhere from twenty to several thousand, according to Jim Coe, research coordinator for the National Marine Fisheries Service. The eastern spinner and northern offshore spotted dolphins are not considered threatened, although one study says they are somewhat depleted in the area of the eastern Pacific, where the most interaction occurs.

But great strides have been made to reduce the number of kills by American fishermen, and they are proud of it. Last year's rate, the lowest ever, averaged 3.7 per set. The American Tuna Boat Association says nearly 2,000 of the some 3,400 sets made last year wounded no dolphins at all. That *is* quite an improvement over the more than 500,000 killed in 1970. What has made the difference? The "Backdown."

The Backdown method, designed by a fisherman, is where the seiner maneuvers his net into a thumb shape, then reverses his engines to pull the corkline under the surface of the water. The dolphins, which like to swim near the top, escape over the seine. Smaller mesh sizes at the surface have also helped reduce the kill rate. If American fishermen cannot make a living using these methods, they will join the foreign fleet and not worry about anything. *Then* how safe will dolphins be? ⚓



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# Net pens prepare fish for open seas

## YOUNGS BAY

More than 400,000 young coho salmon were released into the waters of Youngs Bay this spring, after spending two weeks in temporary net pens on the northern shore of Youngs Bay.

The fish, transported by truck from the Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery at Estacada, were kept in the pens to give them a chance to become accustomed to the different water conditions before having to face their outside predators. In the past, direct open transfer into Youngs Bay has resulted into easy pickings for sea birds.

The temporary net pen provides the young fish a chance to "catch their breath" before being released. "The fish do come out kind of goofy," says Jim Hill, director

of the Clatsop Economic Development Committee.

This light-headedness fish experience is caused by the high level of oxygen present in the truck tank water, necessary to keep the fish alive during the long truck ride from Estacada. Some 20 percent of the fish are ravaged by birds and other predators when the pens are not used.

"It just gives them a chance to acclimatize to the new water," Hill says. "Holding them for the two weeks prevents that initial mortality."

When the young coho are released into the open sea, they will be released at night so they can get a "head start" away from their predators. Once set free, the fish will spend up to a few weeks frolicking in fresh water before finally heading out to open water.

"The birds will let us know when they're not around," Hill added.

While waiting in their temporary home, the fish were fed with food paid by a \$15,000 grant approved this spring by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's Restoration and Enhancement Board.

This board also approved a \$285,000 grant at the beginning of the year which added 24 new net pens to the Youngs Bay facility. These pens will be used to launch Rogue River fall chinook salmon stocks into the bay.

## Tules need helping hand

**PLIMPTON CREEK** — The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife would like to enlist volunteers to help trap tule chinooks in Plimpton Creek, near Westport (Oregon) this fall.

ODFW estimates that 65,000 fish will return here, the lowest amount since counting began in 1964. Typically, tule runs average 150,000 fish per year, 300,000 in 1987.

"Because of the low return, we're not going to get enough fish back to hatcheries to provide eggs for next year's program," says biologist Jim Gladson.

The plan is to collect about 600 females from late August to late September, to be released in Big Creek Hatchery.

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## Winter season best since 1941

by David Harlan

The 1990 Winter salmon gillnet season was the second-best ever on the Lower Columbia River, but just barely.

Gillnetters landed 18,900 spring chinook salmon during the annual winter season that ended Friday, March 9.

That beats their previous second-best of 18,300 landed in 1988 but falls well short of the all-time high of 21,400 landed during the 1941 season.

Biologists had projected that fishermen were on pace to beat the all-time mark when the final week of this year's fishery began March 4, the last of four separate fishing periods.

Those projections went out the window as catch rates leveled off during the closing days of the season, said Paul Hirose, a biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"The last week wasn't quite as good as the third week, and that's why our projections weren't met," Hirose said.

Fishermen took to the waters of the Lower Columbia downstream of its confluence with the Willamette River at Kelly Point on February 11, their earliest opener for the winter season since 1958.

Despite the early start and a season that lasted into the second week of March, gillnetters landed few fish from depressed runs of upriver spring chinook salmon

bound for hatcheries and spawning grounds upstream of Bonneville Dam.

Just 2,150 upriver fish, or 1.8 percent of the total projected upriver run of 120,800 turned up in nets, Hirose said.

Most of the gillnet catch came from a predicted record run of spring chinook bound for the Willamette and its tributaries, the main component of the projected 150,100 strong lower river spring chinook run bound for Columbia River hatcheries and tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam.

Lower river stocks begin entering the Columbia in mid-February, closely followed by the upper river run in early March.

Despite the second-best winter catch ever, deliveries by individual fishermen were small, ranging from two to five fish for most of the season.

"No fisherman this whole season really made a real killing," said ODFW biologist Steve King.

Prices fluctuated throughout the season, ranging from \$3 to \$4 per pound for fishermen.

"They started out in the middle, went high, went way down after the third week to \$3, and then toward the end of the final week the price went up again," Hirose said.

## Low water level endangering fish runs

PORTLAND — There's no question about it.

Low water flows trapped thousands of chinook salmon smolts behind dams in the Columbia River basin this spring, according to officials from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Jim Martin, chief of fisheries, says that the most endangered are the spring, summer and fall chinook runs on Idaho's Snake River, even though the river traditionally has the highest-producing spawning habitat in the West.

Martin says that fish reared on the Snake must battle their way through a total of eight dams to reach the Pacific Ocean, and it is a rough road to travel.

As a result, he says, the strength and productivity of the fish is greatly reduced. Fish need good water flows for about six weeks to make the journey, while this spring saw just six days of good flow.

For every 100 smolts that begin above the Lower Granite Dam, the highest, only 25 make it past Bonneville, the lowermost dam, Martin says.

Studies are currently being conducted to determine if Snake River salmon runs qualify as a threatened or endangered species.

*Related story on page 26*

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# Southern Oregon urchin fishermen fear possible sea lion rules

**GOLD BEACH** — Commercial fishermen and seafood processors in Southern Oregon are concerned over the possibility of regulations which would severely curtail the local sea urchin fishery here, if current recommendations from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission are approved.

The prime sea urchin fishery areas under scrutiny are near the coastal communities of Port Orford and Gold Beach, where 7.8 million pounds of the spiny shellfish was landed last year, the most since the fishery seriously began in 1987.

As in many other fisheries, most goes to Japan, where gourmets prize it.

Officials of the OFWC are recommending that 2,000-foot, rectangular "buffer zones" be established at two important sea lion rookeries on Orford Reef and Rogue Reef, which would not allow sea urchin diving in the area between May 1 and August 31.

The number of Steller sea lions has been declining in Alaska, where more stringent, year-round restrictions have been put in place to protect it. (Some areas have 3-mile restrictive zones.)

But apparently, the proposed buffers here are designed to provide a tranquil breeding environment for the mammals, because the Oregon population shows

little sign of depression, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Which makes sea urchin fishermen just a little bit angry. "Why close the area if the sea lions aren't at all endangered?" said one fisherman.

Curry County officials are concerned as well, as sea urchin processing has suddenly become the county's second-largest employer. They are suggesting a 500-foot buffer zone at Rogue Reef, and a 750-foot buffer at Orford Reef, during the stated months.

An official decision will be made by the NMFS following the 240-day emergency period which began April 5.

## The Bent Needle

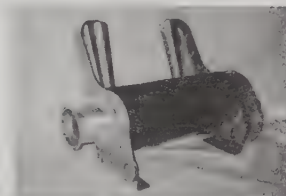


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# Waves from the Past: The Value of our Fishery

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The following is the resolution regarding Oregon salmon fisheries, recently introduced in congress by Congressman Hermann and referred to the committee on commerce:

Whereas, A leading industry in the state of Oregon is the salmon fishery, the value of the export shipments for 1884 being \$3,000,000, and embracing 672,350 cases of canned salmon, while the same year the total wheat and flour export was valued at \$5,600,000; and so rapidly has this industry grown in value to the state and nation that in capital employed in fisheries, Oregon stands eighth in order among the states; in persons employed, fifth; and in value of fish products, the third in order; and,

Whereas, It is reported that the propagation, increase and growth of said fish are greatly retarded by injuries received from imperfect and illy-devised fish ladders, fish ways, nets, seines, fish traps, fish wheels and other devices, and often from poisonous matter deposited in the navigable streams of said state, and that great quantities of said fish not matured or caught, killed, molested and injured by said wasteful deposits, thereby depleting the great supply and seriously interfering with the proper maturing of the young fish; therefore,

Resolved, That the United States commissioner of fish and fisheries be, and he is hereby, directed to investigate the methods of fishing pursued in said state, and to ascertain those which are the most injurious to the preservation of the industry, as well as the regulations and stringent measures deemed necessary to prevent further waste and wanton destruction; also to inquire as to the authority and constitutional power of the government to regulate and protect the fish and fishery interests on navigable waters of the Nation, or on any waters forming the boundary between states, or states and territories, and to report to this house.

A correspondent sends the following letter to the *London Standard*: The Norwegians are at present supplying our markets with fish cured by the boracic process, which process has received the approbation of Prof. Cossor-Ewart of the Scotch Fishery Board, and other recognized authorities on fish matters. The fish cured by that process, as we get them, are found to be without taint or sign of putrefaction. Parasites and germedise are destroyed, and putrefaction is prevented under a period of some weeks. Nor can the consumer complain of the taste of the fish, which is rather improved by the process. The Norwegians are also enabled to retain their fish in sufficient quantities to demand the lowest possible rates of transit. They control shipments, and have a complete hold of the economic principles of distribution, the proper carrying out of which is the medium whereby they partly get their profit. They can also, by means of this preservative property, hold their fish for profitable markets.

*Reprinted from The Weekly Astorian, January 8, 1887*

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# Remembering a Bygone Era

## CLIFTON & BRADWOOD: A TIME WHEN PEOPLE TRULY LIVED OFF THE LAND

Listed in just about every guide to Oregon ghost towns, the two East Clatsop County communities of Clifton and Bradwood take one back to the days when men truly lived off the land.

Reached by a twisting band of pavement down off Bradley Hill toward the mighty Columbia River, the century-old cannery town of Clifton and the once-booming mill town of Bradwood offer a glimpse of a bygone era you won't find elsewhere on the North Coast.



*Cook Salmon Cannery, year unknown. Oregon Historical Society, #cn 021501*

Clifton, named for the wooded cliffs that rise up from the river behind it, was founded shortly after the Civil War, when the Cook brothers built Oregon's first salmon cannery there.

From the very beginning it was populated mostly by members of four immigrant groups, the Chinese, Greeks, Italians and Slavonians, who fled their homelands to seek a better way of life in America during its post-war boom.

The Chinese operated the cannery equipment. The Greeks, Italians and the Slavs caught the fish that fed it. And catch fish they did.

Many a Columbia River salmon went through the old iron "chinks" (head cutters) at the Clifton cannery.

At the time, the Trans-Continental Railroad was under construction, and railraod tycoons of the day were transporting thousands of Chinese "coolies" to America to lay the tracks across the icy mountains and the hot deserts.

Most of the Chinese were brought to San Francisco by sailing ship, and then put to work almost immediately on the Western end of the road. However, a handful made their way north and found work building dikes at the mouth of the Columbia.

The Cook brothers enticed many of these men away from their dike-building jobs by offering better pay. As an added incentive, they also offered free housing in Clifton.

The Cooks built an enormous bunkhouse-type building adjacent to the cannery for the Chinese workers, and it came to be known as the "China House."

At this time hundreds of Chinese immigrants were arriving on the West Coast, and just as many Southern Europeans were coming to the East Coast. Greeks, Italians and Slavs by the thousands arrived on New York's shores via sailing ship.

Most of these Southern European men, who, unlike their Chinese counterparts, brought their families with them, found work in the nation's largest and most famous city. Most took East Coast factory jobs.

But a few made their way west where they found work of other sorts. Many had grown up around the water, so took sailing or fishing jobs.

The Cook brothers recruited quite a few of these men to fish for them in Clifton. They used linen gillnets draped over the sides of small wooden sailboats to snare salmon for canning.

In rain, wind, snow and sun.



At the time of the cannery's completion in 1869, Clifton could only be reached by sailboat. The motorcar hadn't been invented, and the railroad hadn't arrived. Clifton couldn't be reached by horse, either, because no trail led to it.

That meant the men had to establish homes in the new town. Most built float-houses first, moored to pilings pounded into the soft mud at the river's edge. Later, many of the immigrants built larger, more substantial 2-story homes on the river bank, using sturdy cedar pilings driven deep into the mud.

The Greeks tended to settle in upper Clifton, or "Uppertown," near the site of the original cannery. The Slavs and the Italians chose to settle in "Lowertown," where a second cannery was constructed sometime before the turn of the century.

The railroad, completed about 1900, brought with it a pass-through of people that spawned restaurants, saloons, hotels and dance halls at both ends of Clifton. One complex came to include a roller skating rink, as Clifton had surprisingly become something of a tourist attraction.

A railroad depot was built in Lowertown, with a store, post office and schoolhouse coming later. Oldtimers say a can-making plant also may have been operating in Clifton at one time.

Across the Clifton channel on 1700-acre Tenasillahe Island, (now a national game refuge), other immigrants settled. Most of them made their living by seining for salmon with huge, horse-drawn nets, while others worked on the island's dairy ranch or its cheese factory. Children on the island crossed the channel by boat each weekday morning to go to school, and it often was a chilly ride.

At its peak, Clifton was the home of several hundred inhabitants, with another 100 residing across the river on Tenasillahe. Several factors drove the residents away.

First, larger, more modern canneries were being built downriver near Astoria.



## MANY SETTLERS SEINED FOR SALMON WITH HORSE-DRAWN RIVER NETS

Second, laws were passed which prohibited seining, and it became illegal for immigrants to gillnet for salmon in Oregon waters.

For these reasons, the canneries closed their doors, and with them went Clifton's other commercial establishments as well, hastened along by the onset of prohibition.

After the canneries and public establishments vanished, many of the immigrants returned to their native lands. Others left to look for other types of work elsewhere in America.

About 1940, the schoolhouse closed, after educating many a local fisherman. The post office lasted longer, but finally closed its doors as well. The rail depot shut up shop when the popular passenger train became not so popular, and departed as Clifton's population began to decline.

By the time the county constructed a road to Clifton from Highway 30 around 1945, (which the oldtimers say took a little "under the table" coaxing), little was left but a few abandoned buildings.

Many have been claimed by the harsh, wet climate of the mighty Columbia River over the years, but some still stand, and remain silent reminders of what once was.

The only substantial, larger structure remaining is the Lowertown cannery and its outbuildings, purchased by a small group of longtime Clifton fishermen, who use it as a fish receiving station, storage warehouse and moorage. The old post office, one of the very first opened in the Northwest, stands today, but has fallen into a sorry state of disrepair.

The Uppertown cannery, once a favorite of painters and poets, blew down in a violent winter windstorm in 1981. The adjoining netrack lasted longer, but finally succumbed to the elements of nature in last winter's snowstorm.

Eleven homes still remain, and most are occupied by Clifton's handful of residents today.





*Clifton residents pose in front of the Manhattan Hotel and Grocery.*

Bradwood was born about the time Clifton died. Just under one mile upriver from the old cannery town, it was founded by the Bradley and Woodard Lumber Company, from which the town got its name.

The company built a mill there in the 1930's and surrounded it with bunkhouses for its 150 employees. Later, the firm added a cookhouse, company store, schoolhouse, church, post office, railroad depot, power plant and union hall.

Bradley and Woodard cut a rough road winding its way to the new town, and built big docks at the edge of the river near its mill. Huge Douglas fir logs were hauled into Bradwood on the road, turned into lumber by millworkers, then loaded onto ocean-going freighters at the Bradwood docks. (The Columbia, just 12 feet deep at Clifton, is 50 feet deep at Bradwood, as it is just off the main ship channel.)

But the deep water prevented the company from using the method of construction used in Clifton. It couldn't af-

ford to drive many pilings into 50-foot-deep water, so placed almost all of its buildings back of the river's edge on dry land.

Bradwood thrived for several years, and would have thrived for many more had its founders thought to equip the mill to handle second-growth timber. In the 1930's when Bradley and Woodard built their mill here, the supply of old growth timber seemed inexhaustible.

As it stood, the mill could only process larger, old growth timber, and when it became scarcer and scarcer, the mill was not modernized and reoutfitted to handle the second-growth logs.

The mill became uneconomical to operate, and was soon forced to close its doors, as well as the doors of the other buildings which had been erected. None of Bradwood's original structures remains.

The old mill burned many years back, but today charred, decaying pilings and dock remnants mark the site on the sandy beach.

## CHARRED PILINGS MARK THE SITE ON THE SANDY BEACH





## A Wave Goodbye

### Walt "Irv" Josephson 1912-1990

Lifetime Astoria resident and longtime friend Walt "Irv" Josephson passed away June 19 at South Naknek, Alaska. He was 78.

Irv was born February 12, 1912, in Astoria, the son of Anton and Signey Baker Josephson. He attended Astoria schools.

Irv had worked as a commercial fisherman on the Columbia River and on Bristol Bay, Alaska for much of his life.

For forty-two summers he worked for Bumble Bee Seafoods, now South Naknek Seafoods, at its South Naknek, Alaska plant, and was working as net boss this summer.

Irv was a member of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, the Astoria Elks Lodge and the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Surviving are two daughters, two granddaughters, three grandsons and seven great-grandchildren.

### Gustav E. Peterson 1887-1990

Ninety-nine year Astoria resident Gustav Emil Peterson passed away here February 23. He was 102.

Born the son of Gustav and Anna Peterson in 1887, at St. Paul, Minnesota, Mr. Peterson moved to Astoria at the age of three, and attended Astoria schools.

Mr. Peterson was a Columbia River gillnetter for many years, and also worked at McGregor's Mill and the Foard and Stokes Store. He was employed by the U.S. Postal Service until retirement.

A life member of the Sons of Norway, the Astoria Elks Lodge and the Scandinavian Benevolent Society, Mr. Peterson helped construct Astoria's first Lutheran church. He was also one of the first members of the Columbia Club basketball team in 1911.

Surviving are a son, a daughter, two grandchildren, a great-grandson and several nieces and nephews.

### Wayne Issic Oyala 1917-1990

A Mayger resident for 72 years, Wayne I. Oyala died March 3 in Portland.

Mr. Oyala was born in Mayger August 27, 1917, the son of Jacob and Anna Reinikka Oyala. He attended area schools and graduated from Clatskanie High School.

Mr. Oyala served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was a decorated veteran. He received the American Area Campaign, Philippine Liberation, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign and WWII Victory medals as well as a unit citation from the Fifth Fleet.

A member of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, Mr. Oyala worked as a commercial fisherman and as a carpenter.

He served as Captain of the Clatskanie Volunteer Fire Department for many years.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Dellis, of Longview, Washington; two sons, a sister and three grandchildren.

### Toivo U. Puustinen 1909-1990

A commercial fisherman on the Columbia River and professional seal hunter, Toivo Puustinen passed away June 14 at his home in Svensen. He was 81.

Born February 8, 1909 in Astoria, Mr. Puustinen was the son of Paul and Riika Hartikainen Puustinen. He attended Astoria schools, as well as Oregon State University in Corvallis.

In his later years, Mr. Puustinen was an independent insurance agent. He was also a member of Temple Lodge No. 7 A.F. & A.M., and was the author of two books.

Surviving are a son, a daughter, two brothers, two sisters, one granddaughter, two grandsons, one great-granddaughter and many nieces and nephews.



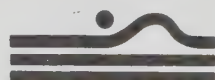
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### Recent Developments

- Four boat berths added at East End Basin in July
- Dredge permit for West End Basin given tentative approval
- Bids for concrete replacement for East End Basin's wooden causeway now requested



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*Albert J. Aho*  
1922-1990

Albert J. Aho, who called Astoria home for many years, passed away at his home June 27. He was 67.

Born July 8, 1922 in Clatskanie, Mr. Aho was the son of Matt and Hannah Koskela Aho. He attended Astoria schools.

Mr. Aho served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was a commercial fisherman on the Columbia and in Alaska, as well as California.

Two brothers, Reino and Edward, survive, as do several nieces and nephews throughout the Northwest.

*Edward W. Hankin*  
1935-1990

Fifty-four year-old Edward Hankin died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident near Phoenix, Arizona, on January 12.

Mr. Hankin was born April 28, 1935 in Tillamook. He went to school in Cascade Locks. Mr. Hankin was a commercial gill-netter on the Columbia and in Alaska for more than 40 years. He began fishing with his father when he was 14.

Surviving are his wife, Thorene, several sons and daughters, as well as three grandchildren.

*Walt Dickenson*  
1950-1990

Walt Dickenson, longtime commercial fisherman, died May 14 in a forklift accident. He was 39.

Mr. Dickenson, who operated his own boat building business, was born December 26, 1950 in Portland. He graduated from Corbett High School in 1970, beginning his career as a fisherman at 17.

Mr. Dickenson served in the U.S. Army.

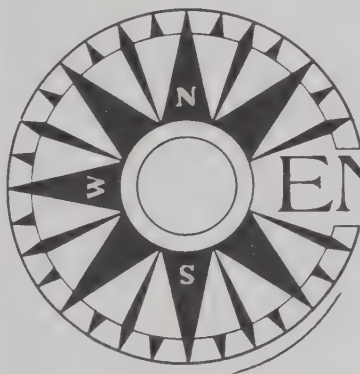
Surviving beside his wife, Jacqueline, are his father and mother, four daughters and several brothers and sisters.

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# Oregonians say Oregon's water stays here

*Southern California lawmakers want the Columbia diverted to ease their drought*

LOS ANGELES COUNTY — California lawmakers want to divert our Columbia River's water south to drought-stricken Southern California.

Kenneth Hahn, supervisor for Los Angeles County, has asked the state of Oregon to allow for the construction of massive aqueducts, possibly built along-side Interstate 5.

But Oregon officials say the request doesn't stand a chance.

"I can't see that this proposal is going anywhere," says a spokesperson for Washington Gov. Booth Gardner. "Not one governor (outside California) favors it," he adds.

The plan calls for the connecting of the Columbia and the Snake Rivers, with the flow heading south to wash cars, water lawns and fill swimming pools.

And, as one fisherman puts it, we just won't stand for it.

Not when there's not enough water for our chinook salmon to reach the wild oceans, attempting to maneuver over the many dams on the Columbia and the Snake.

The Snake is already facing the extinction of the spring, summer and fall chinook runs, when these runs used to be one of the highest-producing spawning habitats in the Northwest.

But no more.

The Columbia is in trouble, too. Four salmon runs on the river have been considered to be classified as an endangered species.

We clearly need the water *here* in the Northwest to try to maintain and preserve these delicate fish runs. It's also badly needed here to maintain water quality, hydroelectric generation, recreational uses and municipal and industrial uses as well.

Gail Achterman, assistant for natural resources to Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, agrees. She says that similar proposals over the years have led to the passing of a federal law which prohibits federal studies of diversion without the approval of the governors of the states involved.

Hahn claims that billions of gallons

of water are "wasted" by free-flowing into the Pacific, but Achterman says this just isn't so.

"Our response is that his notion that somehow water is wasted when it runs into the ocean, is based on a complete misunderstanding," she says.

"It's based on a notion that somehow it is *good* to dry up rivers before they go into oceans, like Los Angeles has succeeded in doing to the Colorado River."

We do not want our Columbia River to dry up as the once-great Colorado has.

It isn't our responsibility to cure the problems of other states while concurrently compounding those right here in Oregon.

We applaud the common sense which has been demonstrated by our lawmakers concerning this issue.

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## New fish handling facility is state of the art

**LITTLE GOOSE DAM** — A new \$9 million fish handling and loading facility has been opened on the Columbia River near Dayton.

"This is state of the art technology, and will become the wave of the future in fish-collecting facilities," says Jim Hackett, spokesperson for the Walla Walla District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The facility, located about 40 miles north of Dayton, uses a gravity-fed flume to carry young salmon and steelhead away from the massive turbines to safer waters downstream.

Snaring the young fish as they move

from their spawning grounds to the open ocean, corps workers at the facility direct the fish into aluminum holding tanks, where they are separated by species, counted, weighed and checked for general condition. A new 4,400-square-foot building has been built at the facility for the corps workers.

The metal transport flume, nearly one-third of a mile long, uses gravity to direct the fish away from the turbines and into the tanks. It replaces the old pressurized piping method previously used at the locks.

According to Hackett, before the fish are released into the flume, they are held

in ten large concrete raceways, each with a capacity of 6,000 pounds of fish. Hackett says the raceways greatly increase the holding capacity at Little Goose, so many more 3- and 4-inch steelhead and chinook salmon can be processed.

Approximately 20 million fish were transported from the Lower Granite, Little Goose and the McNary dams to the Bonneville in 1988.

The new technology learned at the Little Goose is expected to be widely used at dams throughout the Northwest.

It is an important step toward improving the depressed fish runs on the Columbia River.

## FUNDS FLOW TO FISH BYPASS FACILITIES

Federal money will be flowing to six dams on the Columbia River system next year to help returning fish maneuver around them.

Help, in the form of more than \$17.5 million, is on its way to the Lower Granite, Little Goose, McNary, Lower Monumental, The Dalles and Ice Harbor Dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

But the real beneficiaries are fish. The Northwest Power Planning Council says that the death rate will be cut in half.

The largest allocation, some \$8.7 million, will go to the Snake River's Lower Monumental dam, where a sophisticated series of screens and fish bypass system will be built.

Another \$1 million will go for a pro-

posed blueprint of elaborate holding and loading facilities here to move fish around the dam.

A prototype of an extended screen to protect fish from the massive turbines will be built at the Columbia's McNary dam. As it stands now, more than half the salmon that make it this far are killed as they meet the turbines.

At Ice Harbor dam on the Snake and The Dalles dam on the Columbia, nearly \$3 million will be spent on the development and testing of fish-diverting screens.

The Little Goose and Lower Granite will receive \$1.2 million for the development of fish screens, and to expand their fish transportation facilities.

It's a giant step toward saving fish!



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Rep. Les AuCoin  
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## Limited-entry issue is controversial

Congress is being told that entry into major American commercial fisheries must be limited.

The uncontrolled fleet is threatening to deplete fisheries in the North Pacific and jeopardize a public resource, says a group of more than 200 important members of the Pacific Northwest scientific community.

They say it's a simple case of too many boats chasing too little fish, while an increasing number of species are being wildly overfished in the process.

"We recommend an immediate moratorium on entry to all major fisheries," said a letter sent to Congress this spring by the group. Today, very few American fisheries have limited entry policies, such as the one in place on Alaska's Bristol Bay, and new vessels are allowed to enter at will.

The letter calls for a two-year moratorium on new entries to fisheries, while limited-entry plans are further discussed and developed.

The suggestion comes at a time when Congress is considering making amendments to the 1976 Magnuson Act, which gave the United States jurisdictional authority in all fisheries within 200 miles of our coastline.

It also comes at a time when stocks of pollock, one of the most important bottomfish harvested from the ocean, have dropped considerably in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea after many years of intense fishing.

But Alaskan fishermen and their interests are not greeting the limited-entry proposal with open arms. They claim that the proposed entry limits will force them out of the bottomfish and crab fisheries which are largely controlled by the Seattle fleet.

"It would award a disproportionate amount of the fishery resource to a small part of the industry," said Harold Sparck, a western Alaska fisherman who is already unable to break into the pollock fishery.

## Sailor hits the town

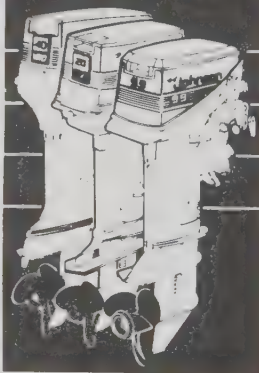
Astoria's re-creation of an historic turn-of-the-century sailing Columbia River Gillnetter went to town this summer, visiting Seattle for its annual Wooden Boat Festival in July.

The first such appearance of its life, the gillnetter made quite an impression at the Seattle festival, proudly sporting its sail on the waters of Lake Union. She turned heads and caught attention wherever she went.

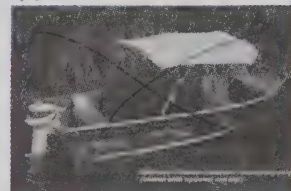
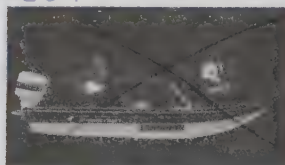
Represented by the Columbia River Maritime Museum, the sailing gillnetter, completed last fall by two area craftsmen, was joined at the festival by an old rowing pilot boat recently donated to the museum.

The boat also stole the show at Astoria's own Regatta celebration this August. Museum spokespeople say more trips to show off our gillnetter are in the works.

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# Did you Know?

Fishermen and their friends are looking to identify the wonderful old fisherman who is pictured standing in the sailboat on the cover of the video, "Work Is Our Joy."

No one seems to remember him, although hundreds of people, including many oldtimers, have seen the picture. Some think it could be Jalmer Wilson's deck-hand — any thoughts?

The sensitive recollection of the Columbia River Gillnetter is available on videocassette at the CRFPU office, as well as the Columbia River Maritime Museum. We at CRFPU would be happy to mail one to you. Call us!

"Iron Chink" Smith was 34 years old when he invented the "iron chink," a nifty machine that chops off 3,000 fish heads and fins per hour during processing.

It was first used at Red Salmon cannery in Naknek, Alaska in 1904, and is still in use there today, as well as many other canneries. The machine eliminated the need for Chinese laborers who performed the deed before.

The Columbia River Gillnetter fish boat has retained many of its original features which have made it a lasting success story.

A heavily-built craft, the gillnetter sported a V-shaped hull which made for excellent maneuverability and seaworthiness in rough waters, as well as a generous beam.

Originally propelled with human horsepower (oars), the Columbia River Gillnetter then became a sailing gillnetter, with the help of a "butterfly" sail. Internal-combustion and gasoline engines came later.

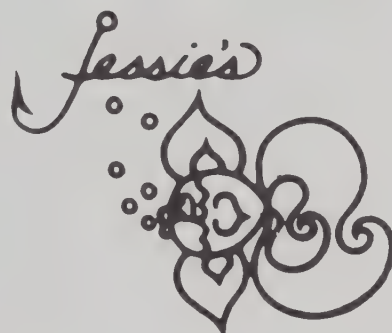
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## Elmore Cannery preserved in photos

The historic Samuel Elmore Cannery near Uniontown in Astoria, once a bustling tuna canning facility for Bumble Bee Seafoods, has been preserved in photographs by a traveling photographer.

Jet Lowe, who travels the country photographing buildings, bridges and historic places, used a 30-year-old large-format camera to record the old cannery for the archives of the United States Library of Congress.


"More than half the things I've documented no longer exist," says Lowe.

The cannery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was abandoned about ten years ago, when the cost of processing and canning tuna on the Pacific coast became too prohibitive for Castle & Cooke, parent company of Bumble Bee, to remain there.

Named for Samuel Elmore, former mayor of Astoria, the cannery was built in 1886, the same year of the formation of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union. More than a few tuna passed through its wooden walls, and it was a popular tourist stop for many years.

The cannery was sold to Astoria Warehousing in 1984, and plans are now to possibly raze the structure.

As is the case of many old buildings in Astoria, the Elmore Cannery is today a threatened historical landmark waiting to die.



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# 2-S fishery is poor

Seasonably warm weather has made for such slim pickings the first week of gillnetting in Area 2-S, many fishermen have given up and gone home.

According to preliminary figures from the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, just 1400 upriver chinook salmon had been landed as of Saturday, August 18. The quota set by the Columbia River Compact is 22,000, so reaching this number doesn't appear likely.

Water temperatures upwards of 75 degrees, the highest ever recorded at Bonneville, contributed to the poor showing.

"Fish just don't move in that weather," said one fisherman.

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## Future of sturgeon is cloudy

Just about every fisherman knows what it's like to reel in a netful of undersized sturgeon — when they're coming in over the roller two or three at a time, you can probably hear the cursing for miles.

Still, no matter how hard they are to get out of a gillnet, the shark-like 200-million-year-old sturgeon, which dates back to prehistoric times, holds a special place in the gillnetter's book. Many like the taste of the white sturgeon meat even more than that of the prized chinook salmon.

It is believed that hundreds of thousands of sturgeon swam the seas of the Northwest centuries ago.

But, the largest North American freshwater fish is facing hard times of late, as dams have more than taken their toll on the sturgeon, which, unlike their salmon and steelhead counterparts, cannot negotiate fish ladders.

As the female sturgeon don't mature and spawn until they reach 15 to 20 years of age and more than five feet long, mature fish are protected by a four-foot minimum and a six-foot maximum size restriction.

And you don't have to tell gillnetters that the number of legal sturgeon has depleted during the past few years.

This year, sport fishermen on the Columbia River were put on a strict two-per-day, six-per-week limit, while the minimum length for "keepers" was upped to forty inches.

According to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, there are about 160,000 to 300,000 "legal" sturgeon sweeping the bottom of the Columbia River today below Bonneville Dam.

And they literally *do* sweep the bottom — for freshwater clams, worms, shrimp, fish eggs and a wide array of other fish. Once, a sturgeon caught by an angler on the Snake River was found with a stomachful of onions.

But the ODFW also warns that the harvest rate of sturgeon has "passed the point of optimum sustained yield," and that the new recreational rules would greatly benefit fishing in the next ten years or so, as more sturgeon would reach legal size.

But commercial fishermen aren't so sure. "You just don't catch that many le-

gal sturgeon anymore," one said recently. "You're lucky to catch a handful."

Rather than the scales present on other fish, sturgeon are protected by a tough, sandpaper-like skin similar to that of the shark, as well as by several rows of "scutes" or plates which, fishermen say, are as sharp as needles. They are a durable fish, too, living as long as 100 years or more.

On the Lower Columbia, the sturgeon fishery has traditionally been a lopsided affair, with sports fishermen getting the bigger piece of the pie. Last year, sports-fishermen caught 47,800 while commercial gillnetters reeled in just 6,500.

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Fishermen know anything can happen on the water, and this product could literally be a lifesaver in many situations.

Once activated, this cloth will stick to fiberglass, wood, metal, rubber and plastic. In fisherman's talk, this could mean a hose, pipe fitting, a leaky exhaust or fuel tank, or even a hole in the hull — not a pleasant thought when you're miles away.

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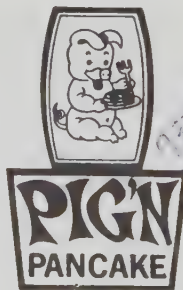
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## Steelhead's a Salmon, not a Trout

Now that the American Fisheries Society of Ichthyologists and Herbetologists has re-classified the steelhead as a salmon, sports fishermen and their interests are worried that commercial fishermen will now want to once again sell their incidental catch.

And well they should be.

If steelhead is really a salmon, then steelhead is really a **food fish**, as classified by the United States Department of Interior.

And that means commercial fishermen, as the law is defined, can harvest the fish. They *should* be able to sell their

catch, make money, *and* bring a top-quality food product to the world's dinner table at the same time.

It just makes sense.

Even when Columbia River Gillnetters *were* permitted to fish the winter steelhead run, which was years back, they typically only took **3 percent** of the total run in a month's fishing time.

Meanwhile, sports fishermen have been enjoying a whopping **20 percent** of the steelhead run, on average. When there is a surplus of a *food fish*, it is clearly unfair for one interest group to be allowed to fish while another sits on the beach.

The steelhead, formerly called a trout, has been renamed by the scientific community in the genus of wild Pacific salmon.

It joins the chinook and king salmon, chum, sockeye, pink and coho salmon in the classification *Oncorhynchus Mykiss*. *Oncorhynchus* is latin for "hooked snout," for which many salmon are famous.

Steelhead salmon migrate from freshwater streams to the ocean, where they grow and develop, and acquire their deep, steel-blue color.

Deprived for too long while sportsmen have had a field day, commercial fishermen deserve a piece of the pie.

A proper initiative placed on a future ballot should be forthcoming.

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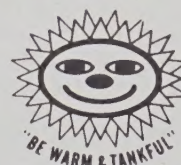


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## Logging practices killing salmon

**HUNTER CREEK** — The once-abundant fall run of the mighty Chinook salmon on southern Oregon's Pistol River has fallen victim to the ravages of clear-cut logging.

According to the Oregon State University Extension Service at Corvallis, the affected streams, about 30 miles from the California border, are experiencing serious depletions of returning fish, because of major debris flows which are washing eggs away, and re-routing water flows.

A spokesperson from the extension service says extensive clear-cut logging was done in the area near Euchre and Hunter Creek in the 1950's and 60's. Both of these streams are considered Class II streams, that is, not known to contain fish.

Oregon state law requires loggers to leave a "buffer zone," a section of trees alongside Class I streams, or those which contain fish. Pistol River, in Class I, was left a buffer, but is now getting flows and landslides of tree branches, roots, gravel and bed materials, coming from clear-cuts and from eroding, abandoned logging roads.

Pools of water where fish lay their eggs are being disrupted by these flows, and the state of this chinook run is severely threatened.

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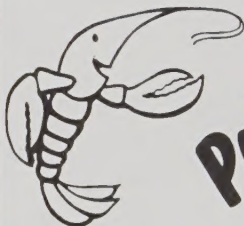
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The Columbia River Gillnetter is published seasonally for the Columbia  
River Fishermen's Protective Union, Astoria, Oregon, by Image  
Designworks, Post Office Box 5303, Westport, Oregon, 503/455-2309.  
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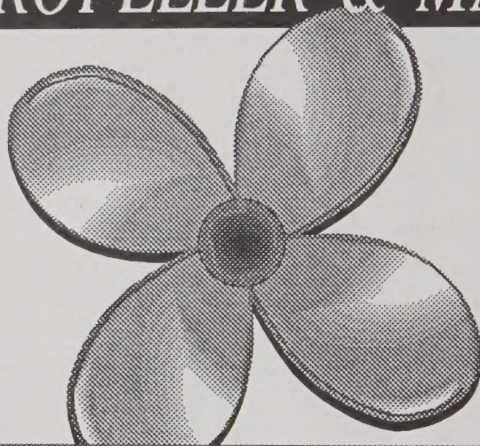
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